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BORCUGH OF BRIDGNORTH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Bridgnorth for the year ended December 31st, 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: L.E. Dickson, M.D.,B.S. (part time)

Sanitary & Food Inspector: G.A.Graves, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I. (from 1.9.47 to 31.7.48).
W. Nicholls, M.Inst.M.&.Cy.E., A.R.S.I. (from 22.11.48 to 12.5.49).

Sec.A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population at mid 1948.	5,910.
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1948 according to the Rate Book.	1,785.
Rateable Value.	£29,517.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£115.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.		
Live Births.	136.	61.	75.	) Birth rate per 1,000 of	
Legitimate.	131.	57.	74.	) the estimated resident	
Illegitimate.	5.	4.	1.	) population.	23.0.
Still Births.	1.	1.	-.	) Rate per 1,000 total	
Legitimate.	1.	1.	-.	) live and still births.	7.3.
Deaths.	67.	28.	39.	) Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population.	11.3.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	2.	0.	2.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Death Rates.

All infants per 1,000 live births	14.7.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.2.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil.
Deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough.	"
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years).	"
Deaths from Pneumonia.	"

Deaths from Cancer. (all ages) Total. M. F.
5. 2. 3.

Sec.B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority. as page 1.

Laboratory Facilities, are provided at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

Nursing in the Home, is under the control of the local Health Authority, which is the Salop County Council.

Ambulance Services. Until the 1st April, 1948, one ambulance has been maintained by the Borough of Bridgnorth and this served the needs of the Borough and a considerable area surrounding the town. At the inauguration of the National Health Scheme this was taken over and operated by the Salop County Council for short distance journeys. The telephone No. is Bridgnorth 2303. For long distance journeys arrangements are now made through Shrewsbury, Telephone No.2626.

Hospitals. There are two hospitals in the Borough, the Bridgnorth & South Shropshire Infirmary for general hospital work and Innage House (formerly the Bridgnorth Public Assistance Institute). Innage House is in part an Institution for the care of the aged and infirm, a few beds being provided for the male sick of the Institution, and in part a hospital for female patients, mainly those not needing specialised hospital treatment. The hospital part of the Institution is under the control of Group 16, Wolverhampton Local Management Committee, while the other part of the Institution is under the management of the Salop County Council.
Bridgnorth & South Shropshire Infirmary, formerly a voluntary Hospital, is now under the management of Group 16, Wolverhampton Local Management Committee, and arrangements are being worked out for regular attendances by Consultants from the Wolverhampton Royal Group of Hospitals.
Cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment have in the past been admitted to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, Shrewsbury. They will in future be admitted, if accommodation is available, at Wolverhampton Isolation Hospital.

Clinics. Tuberculosis. Dr. T.R. Elliott attends at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre on the last Tuesday in each month at 11 a.m.
The Welfare Centre is also used for Orthopaedic Clinics.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Rindleford Mains Supply. The quantity and quality of water from this supply has been satisfactory.
Approximately 500 feet of 3" Cast Iron main was laid to a private estate.

Water Analysis. The results of the Bacteriological tests of the samples of the Borough Water are:-

Tap at College House (Borehole Water)		
B.Coli in 100 mls.	0	
Faecal Coli.	0	
Total solid matter in solution	75.0	
Nitrogen in nitrates	0.6	
Chlorine in chloride	22	This sample is satisfactory. The water is a "Hard" one. The Chlorides are high.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	0.028	
Free and Saline Ammonia	0	
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002	
Lead. Copper. Zinc.	0	
Temporary Hardness in degrees Clark	10.0	
Permanent Hardness " "	8.0	
pH Value	7.9	

Hundred House Well (Stand-pipe, St. Mary's Street).		
Viable coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C, per 100 mls.	7	
Faecal Coli.	0	
Mod rate growth of coliform organisms not of faecal origin.		
Total solid matter in solution	43.0	This sample is satisfactory. The water is a "Hard" one.
Nitrogen in nitrates	0.8	
Chlorine in chlorides	1.98	
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hrs at 80° F.	0.008	
Free and Saline Ammonia	0	
Lead. Copper. Zinc.	0	
Temporary hardness in degrees Clark	14	
Permanent " " "	5	
pH Value	7.2	

Hundred House Supply. There were occasions during the dry spells when the amount of water available from the Conduit Lane well was insufficient, and it was decided by the Council that this system should be connected to the Town's main supply from Rindleford.

Tasley Supply. There has been no alteration in the supply of water from the mains in this district adjoining the Borough.

River Severn Flooding. There was a certain amount of flooding in the lower part of the Town during the early part of the year but this soon subsided.

Sec. D. HOUSING.

Shortage of labour and materials still influenced the building programme, but the number of houses completed was more than the previous year.

1. Number of houses completed during 1948.
   (a) By the Council 26.
   (b) By private enterprise 9.

2. Number of houses under construction at 31st December1948.
   (a) By the Council 29.
   (b) By private enterprise 10.

3. Total number of applications for houses at 31st December, 1948. 170.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of producers on the register.

Accredited milk	-
Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
No. of heat treatment plants	-
No. of inspections	-
Reports on milk samples	5 satisfactory.

Food & Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.

This Act did not come into force during the year.

ICE CREAM.

No. of dealers who make ice cream in the district	3.
Number of samples taken for examination	3.

MEAT.

Slaughtering of animals, except for casualties and pigs for private consumption, is still carried out at Wolverhampton from which centre meat is distributed to the Borough and District of Bridgnorth.

Meat and other foods condemned in the district in 1948.

Sheep carcases	16
Beef	54 lbs.
Fish in tins	14 tins
Fruit in tins	11 tins
Vegetables in tins	22 tins
Milk in tins	12 tins
Meat in tins	6 tins
Marmalade	6 tins
Boxes of dates	10
Meat tarts and fruit tarts	100
Boxes of kippers	2
Tomatoes	120 lbs.
Biscuit Meal	7 cwt.
Ham	4¾ lb.
Forequarter of lamb	52½ lbs.
Liver	52 lbs.
Pig carcase	1

Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was no major epidemic of infectious disease during the year.

The number of notified cases of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough were slightly above the average.

There was no case of Diphtheria notified and only 3 cases of Pneumonia. On the 5th July, 1948, organisation of Diphtheria Immunisation and the keeping of records became the duty of the local Health Authority which is the Salop County Council.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11.	4.	-
Pneumonia	3.	2.	-
Puerperal pyrexia	2.	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1.	1.	-
" Polioencephalitis	1.	-	-
Whooping Cough	10.	-	-
Measles	52.	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1948.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals as supplied by Ministry of Health.	3	2	4	2	2	1	1	2

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors.

Your obedient servant,

L. E. DICKSON.

Medical Officer of Health.